

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

85. Part 10

WAOY Friday/Monday 09/14-17/07; WOSM Friday 01/27/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the three points that John is making in these ten verses.

1. Realizing the Danger
2. The Ability and Power that is given to us so that we may realize the Danger
3. The Way to Fight Against the Danger

And on the last broadcast, we were looking at the first point- Realizing the Danger and I want to continue that first point today. So, in order to understand just what danger John is talking about- let's read again verses 18 & 19 together:

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

Here, in verse 18, the Apostle John is passionately warning the Christian Church about the danger of Divinely inspired Truth being lost; stolen; twisted; changed or altered by these “**many antichrists**”- who move into the Church to preach and teach deception. And he says that the very fact that many of these people are alive and well and are operating inside the Church- that this fact proves that we are living in the last time.

Now on the last broadcast, we were looking at the first group who qualified to be what John terms here as “**antichrists**”- The Judaizers or the Legalists who taught that we must earn Salvation by what we do. But there was another group who also taught wrongly about Salvation during John's day- and this second group are known as Antinomians.

The Antinomians began to infiltrate the Church during John's lifetime and they taught just the opposite of what the Judaizers taught. These antichrists taught that since it was true that Salvation was a free gift of Grace- that it didn't matter how we lived after we had received this free gift of Salvation.

So, these people taught that Salvation was actually permission by God to sin with abandon- with no fear of being condemned by God. Antinomians taught that Sin didn't matter to God once they were saved and so they felt free to do whatever they were big enough to do.

The result of this perversion of Grace was that God's people began to engage in horrible acts of idolatry and sexual wickedness to a level never seen before.

So once again- John and Paul and the other Apostles had the duty; the obligation and the responsibility as the ones in whose hands the Christian Faith rested- to teach correctly about Grace and Salvation so as to shed light on the error of both the Judaizers and the Antinomians.

So, Paul wrote in **Romans 6** a scathing denunciation of the heresy of the Antinomians when he said:

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

And John also agreed with Paul when he wrote in **1John 1:6**:

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

And in **1John 2:3&4**, when he said:

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

And in **1John 2:6**, when he said:

the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

And again, in **1John 2:15**, when John said:

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

And again, in **1John 3:4-6**, John said:

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

And in many, many other places in Scripture written by Peter, James, and the rest of the Apostles where it talks about our responsibility and obligation to serve Christ in humility and abstain from sin as they brutally attacked the heresy of Antinomians.

You may have run across the modern day equivalent of either the Judaizers or the Antinomians because, unfortunately, even though their heresy is ancient- it is still alive and well and being taught and practice all over in our day.

The Judaizers were guilty of *ignoring* Grace and teaching that men are saved because they make up their own minds to serve Christ- in and through their own power- while the Antinomians were guilty of *abusing* Grace in that they taught that since Grace was free- it gave them liberty to sin with abandon.

Now I want to be clear here- so please listen to what I am saying. Both of these teachings are wrong. Both of them are false. Both of them are evil. Neither one of these false teachings are noble; neither of them have any redeemable qualities about them. It is wrong to think

that Legalists are better off because at least they demand some response from Man, and it is equally wrong to think that Antinomians are better off because at least they aren't encumbered by rules and regulations.

Both of these errors warp Grace to the point that it becomes unrecognizable. Both of these errors propose "another" gospel that Christ did not preach. Both of these errors originated in the heart and mind of Satan himself and both of these errors lead those who follow them to damnation.

We have to know that Paul and John and the other Apostles worked just as hard to denounce Legalism as they did Antinomianism because both of them pervert the right way of the Lord and give people an understanding about Salvation that is not true- so both of them are the enemy of the Cross of Christ and the product of the "many antichrists" that John was talking about.

The error of the Judaizers ignores Grace; rejects Original Sin and has no use for Grace. It lowers God and raises man to a level that is ungodly.

The error of Antinomianism abuses Grace; rejects holiness and has no need for godly responsibility. It too lowers God and raises man to a level that is ungodly.

So, the immediate danger that John was warning the Church about began with these two perversions of Grace- but unfortunately, it didn't stop there. No, because we are fallen creatures- Men have an enormous propensity to believe a lie much quicker than we believe Truth. So, heresy did not stop with these two errors. Soon John and the other Apostles were faced with new and creative errors- which attacked the very Character and Nature of God the Father, and which then migrated into attacking the Person of Jesus Christ.

The error of the Judaizers and Antinomians were soon joined with the error of the Gnostic mystics and the Greek philosophers during John's lifetime and because the threat to Biblical Christianity was so real and visible- John was moved by the Holy Ghost to warn the Church about these many antichrists.

I would just pray that we all could wake up to the fact that these same heresies are alive and well and being taught in our day. And like it was back in John's day- these teachings that are false and which do not accurately represent Biblical truth are enormously popular and

draw huge crowds because they exalt human self worth to the detriment of Gods' Glory.

The answer to the modern antichrists is the same as it was in John's day- the Word of God. Read it; study it; learn what it says; and what it means; spend time in it; research it; ponder it; mediate upon it; dig deep into its treasure and Christ will be exalted in your eyes and heart and mind like never before and you will develop the ability to exercise spiritual discernment and heresy and the lies of the antichrists will not affect you.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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